

JANUARY 27, 1978

THIS WEEK NO. 4

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK!"

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY...A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS -----.

NARR:

THERE WERE GROWING SIGNS THIS WEEK THAT PEACE TALKS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, WHICH WERE BROKEN OFF TWO WEEKS AGO, WILL RESUME IN CAIRO IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. IN A STATEMENT ISSUED IN JERUSALEM, PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN INDICATED THAT THE ISRAELI CABINET WILL PROBABLY DECIDE TO SEND DEFENSE MINISTER EZER WEIZMAN BACK TO CAIRO SOMETIME SOON FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE MILITARY TALKS WITH EGYPT.

THE HEAD OF THE ISRAELI DELEGATION AT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TALKS WHO REMAINED IN CAIRO AFTER THEY WERE SUSPENDED TWO WEEKS AGO, FLEW BACK TO ISRAEL THIS WEEK. ACCORDING TO ISRAELI SOURCES, THE DELEGATION CHIEF WILL REPORT TO THE ISRAELI CABINET AT ITS SUNDAY MEETING WHEN IT TAKES UP THE QUESTION OF RESUMING THE TALKS. THE JOINT MILITARY COMMITTEE IS CHARGED WITH FORMULATING THE TERMS AND TIMETABLE FOR THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED SINAI AS WELL AS THE DISPOSITION OF EGYPTIAN FORCES THERE ONCE THE ISRAELIS LEAVE. BUT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS NO COMPETENCE TO DEAL WITH THE MORE TOUCHY QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE FUTURE OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE SINAI. THIS AND OTHER MATTERS HAVE BEEN LEFT TO THE JOINT POLITICAL COMMITTEE, WHICH BROKE OFF ITS TALKS LAST WEEK IN JERUSALEM.

THERE IS A GENERAL FEELING THAT ISRAELI LEADERS ARE CLEARLY ANTICIPATING A RESUMPTION OF THE MILITARY TALKS. AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS IS LESS CERTAIN. STILL PRESIDENT SADAT SAID THIS WEEK THAT SERIOUS BEHIND THE SCENES NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN GOING ON, WITH THE UNITED STATES ACTING AS AN INTERMEDIARY. BOTH EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS SEEM CONVINCED THAT THE PEACE PROCESS WILL CONTINUE.

MEANWHILE IN CAIRO, EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS SEEM TO FEEL THAT ISRAEL IS READY TO CHANGE ITS INFLEXIBLE POSITION ON THE WEST BANK AND THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE. A MEMBER OF THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION TO THE POLITICAL TALKS EXPRESSED SOME OPTIMISM:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN

"THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR (ISRAELI) POSITION IS ABOUT TO CHANGE. MUCH DEPENDS ON WHAT HAPPENS IN THE COMING FEW MONTHS, IF NOT IN THE COMING FEW WEEKS."

NARR:

AT THE UNITED NATIONS, SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM URGED BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT THIS WEEK TO RETURN TO QUIET DIPLOMACY AND ABSTAIN FROM PUBLIC CRITICISM OF EACH OTHER'S POSITION:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- WALDHEIM

"IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO AVOID ANY FURTHER PUBLIC CONTROVERSY. I DO NOT THINK THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS ARE VERY HELPFUL. YOU KNOW THAT I WAS ALWAYS AND STILL AM A GREAT SUPPORTER OF QUIET DIPLOMACY. ALTHOUGH PUBLIC STATEMENTS ARE NECESSARY FROM TIME TO TIME I DO NOT FEEL THAT A CONTINUED PUBLIC CONTROVERSY IN THIS REGARD IS HELPFUL. SO I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT WILL RETURN TO QUIET DIPLOMACY -- AND I HOPE THAT THIS WILL LEAD TO PROGRESS."

NARR:

SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM SAID A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT IS STILL FAR AWAY. HE STRESSED THAT ANY SETTLEMENT MUST BE COMPREHENSIVE AND BRING IN THOSE PARTIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ABSENT IN THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS.

IN WASHINGTON, SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE THIS WEEK BRIEFED THE U.S. CONGRESS ON PROSPECTS FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. MISTER VANCE TOLD A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE THAT DIFFICULT ISSUES REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED IN DRAFTING A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE TO GOVERN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT HE SAID THE UNITED STATES HOPES THAT BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY TALKS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL CAN BE RESUMED SOON. EARLIER IN THE WEEK THE SECRETARY OF STATE ALSO BRIEFED PRESIDENT CARTER ON THE U.S. ROLE AT THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE TALKS IN CAIRO WHICH WERE CANCELLED LAST WEEK AFTER THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION WAS RECALLED BY PRESIDENT SADAT. AFTERWARDS THE WHITE HOUSE ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS CAN CONTINUE EVEN THOUGH THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE'S WORK IS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED.

IN ANOTHER TROUBLE SPOT, THE HORN OF AFRICA, REPORTS FROM MOGADISCIO THIS WEEK SAY A CUBAN SOLDIER WAS CAPTURED BY THE SOMALIS IN THE OGADEN FIGHTING. THE SOLDIER REPORTEDLY SAID HE WAS ON COMBAT DUTY NEAR THE ETHIOPIAN CITY OF HARRAR WHEN HE WAS CAPTURED LAST SUNDAY -- AS CUBAN AND SOVIET TROOPS BACKED ETHIOPIAN FORCES IN MOUNTING AN OFFENSIVE AGAINST SOMALI POSITIONS.

SOMALI OFFICIALS HAVE CLAIMED THAT THERE ARE AS MANY AS SEVEN THOUSAND CUBAN SOLDIERS IN ETHIOPIA TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL THOUSAND SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN SOLDIERS. ETHIOPIA, ON THE OTHER HAND, SAYS THERE ARE NO SOVIET OR CUBAN PERSONNEL IN THE COUNTRY, EXCEPT FOR DIPLOMATS AND MEDICAL TEAMS. THERE HAS BEEN NO CONFIRMATION OF THE RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING IN THE OGADEN AREA. BUT SOMALIA CLAIMS THAT THE RENEWED COMBAT IS THE

BEGINNING OF A LONG-ANTICIPATED ETHIOPIAN COUNTER-OFFENSIVE DESIGNED TO REGAIN TERRITORY LOST IN THE OGADEN SINCE LAST JULY.

IN WASHINGTON, TWO MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS BACK FROM A FACT-FINDING MISSION TO THE HORN OF AFRICA, SAID THIS WEEK THAT AMERICAN POLICY IN THAT AREA HAS DRIVEN ETHIOPIA INTO THE HANDS OF THE SOVIET UNION. THEY ADDED THIS MUST BE CHANGED IF ETHIOPIA IS TO HAVE THE OPTION OF BECOMING NON-ALIGNED. AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, THE TWO CONGRESSMEN SAID THE PRESIDENT WAS SENSITIVE TO THEIR CONCERN -- AND ADDED THEY FELT THERE WOULD SOON BE A MORE BALANCED POLICY FROM THE ADMINISTRATION.

THE TWO U.S. CONGRESSMEN, DON BONKER AND PAUL TSONGAS, ALSO SAID THE UNITED STATES SHOULD FOLLOW A COURSE OF STRICT NEUTRALITY BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA. AND THIS MEANS, ACCORDING TO THEM, ALSO SPEAKING OUT AGAINST THE SOMALI INTERVENTION IN THE OGADEN. IN ADDITION, THE CONGRESSMEN SAID THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SHOULD REFRAIN FROM CITICIZING ETHIOPIA FOR ACCEPTING SOVIET ARMS, SINCE ADDIS ABABA IS TRYING TO REGAIN TERRITORY IT CONSIDERS ITS OWN. BUT THE TWO U.S. CONGRESSMEN ALSO SAID PRESIDENT CARTER SHOULD SPEAK OUT AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AND WHAT THEY SAID WAS SOVIET COMPLICITY IN THESE VIOLATIONS.

MEANWHILE, THE SOVIET UNION SAID REPORTS OF SOVIET TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA ARE PROVOCATIVE LIES SPREAD BY SOMALIA AND WESTERN PROPAGANDA. MOSCOW RADIO SAID THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN SUPPLYING ONLY MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND WHAT IT CALLS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA. MOSCOW RADIO ALSO ACCUSED UNNAMED WESTERN POWERS OF ENCOURAGING SOMALIA TO ATTACK ETHIOPIA. IT SAID THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN DOING EVERYTHING TO PREVENT AN ARMED CONFLICT.

AT THE UNITED NATIONS, SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM AGAIN APPEALLED FOR A CEASEFIRE IN OGADEN. ACCORDING TO MISTER WALDHEIM, THE FIGHTING IN THE HORN OF AFRICA IS THE KIND OF REGIONAL CONFLICT THAT REPRESENTS THE GREATEST THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- WALDHEIM

"THE DANGER LIES NOT IN THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING A WORLDWIDE CONFLAGRATION -- I DON'T BELIEVE IN THIS -- BUT IN THE REGIONAL CONFLICTS. IF WE WERE UNABLE TO SOLVE THESE REGIONAL PROBLEMS, OR AT LEAST TO ACHIEVE A BREAKTHROUGH SO THAT THERE IS A CHANCE OF SOLVING THEM, I THINK THE SITUATION WILL DETERIORATE AND THEN OF COURSE THERE IS ALWAYS THE DANGER OF A BIG POWER CONFRONTATION."

NARR:

MISTER WALDHEIM ALSO SAID THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON THESE REGIONAL DISPUTES. AND HE REPEATED HIS APPEAL FOR A CEASEFIRE IN THE OGADEN.

IN A CURIOUS SPACE AGE MISHAP THIS WEEK, A SOVIET MILITARY SATELLITE DESINTEGRATED OVER CANADIAN TERRITORY WITHOUT CAUSING ANYVISIBLE DAMAGE. THE SATELLITE WAS ONE OF SEVERAL SURVEILLANCE VEHICLES LAUNCHED BY THE SOVIET UNION WITH A NUCLEAR REACTOR ON BOARD TO PROVIDE ELECTRICAL POWER. IT WAS LAUNCHED IN SEPTEMBER, AND WITHIN A FEW MONTHS, THE UNITED STATES -- THROUGH ITS OWN MONITORING EQUIPMENT -- DISCOVERED THAT THE SATELLITE WAS NOT FUNCTIONING PROPERLY.

ON JANUARY 12 PRESIDENT CARTER'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, MET WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR ANATOLY DOBRYNIN TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM. AFTER SEVERAL OTHER U.S.-SOVIET CONTACTS ON THE MATTER, THE UNITED STATES¹ FORMED A TASK FORCE AND NOTIFIED OTHER FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS -- INCLUDING CANADA -- OF THE POTENTIAL DANGER CAUSED BY THE SATELLITE'S NUCLEAR REACTOR.

ACCORDING TO A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, THE POSSIBLE NUCLEAR CONTAMINATION COULD HAVE BEEN FATAL TO HUMAN BEINGS UNDER DIRECT OR SUSTAINED CONTACT. AS IT WAS, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THE REACTOR BURNED UP WITH THE REST OF THE SATELLITE WHEN IT RE-ENTERED THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ALSO REFERRED TO THE SOVIET SATELLITE'S POTENTIAL DANGERS:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- E.P.A. SPOKESMAN

"I THINK THAT WE CAN SAY THAT HAD THE RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL COME DOWN IN A POPULATED AREA THAT YOU WOULD HAVE SEEN AT LEAST SOME RADIATION SICKNESS AND POSSIBLY SOME DEATHS."

NARR:

LATER IN THE WEEK THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT COUNTERED CRITICISM IN SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES TO THE EFFECT THAT THE NUCLEAR POWERED SATELLITE MAY HAVE UNLEASHED DEADLY RADIATION WHEN IT CAME DOWN OVER CANADA. EVEN BEFORE REPORTS THAT RADIATION MAY HAVE BEEN DETECTED BY AN AMERICAN-CANADIAN SEARCH PLANE, THE SOVIET UNION DENIED THAT THE SATELLITE POSED A RADIATION DANGER. A TASS AGENCY REPORT SAID THE NUCLEAR BATTERY IN THE SATELLITE WAS SO DESIGNED THAT IT WOULD BE DESTROYED AS IT ENTERED DENSE LAYERS OF THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.

IN THE INDOCHINA BORDER WAR BETWEEN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, VIETNAM THIS WEEK ACCUSED CAMBODIA OF STEPPING UP ATTACKS ON VIETNAMESE TERRITORY. THE OFFICIAL VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY SAID CAMBODIA HAS SENT MOST OF ITS ARMED FORCES TO THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE REPORT ALSO SAID CAMBODIAN FORCES HAVE OCCUPIED AREAS AS DEEP AS TWELVE KILOMETERS INSIDE VIETNAM, MASSACRING BOTH VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN CIVILIANS. ACCORDING TO A VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, INSPITE OF ALL THIS VIETNAM STILL WANTS TO NEGOTIATE AN END TO ITS BORDER WAR WITH CAMBODIA.

MEANWHILE THE PRIME MINISTER OF LAOS SENT LETTERS THIS WEEK TO THE LEADERS OF NEIGHBORING CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM URGING AND END TO THE BORDER FIGHTING AND UNITY AMONG THE INDOCHINESE COMMUNIST STATES. VIENTIANE RADIO SAID THE LAOTIAN PRIME MINISTER TOLD HIS VIETNAMESE COUNTERPART THAT LAOS SUPPORTS HIS CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO END THE BORDER WAR. PREMIER KAYSONE SAID LAOS WANTS RELATIONS BETWEEN ITS TWO COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS TO BE NORMALIZED BECAUSE THEIR BORDER WAR HAS HARMED REVOLUTIONARY AND COMMUNIST FORCES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ELSEWHERE. THE LAOTIAN PREMIER'S LETTER TO CAMBODIAN PREMIER POL POT WAS SIMILAR IN LANGUAGE. IT SAID THE THREE COUNTRIES HAVE SHARED THE SAME FATE THROUGH THE CENTURIES.

THE LAOTIAN MESSAGE TO ITS NEIGHBORS ON VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA CONTAINS THE VIETNAMESE POSITION WITH WHICH CAMBODIA SAYS IT TOTALLY DISAGREES. CAMBODIA SAYS ITS WAR WITH VIETNAM IS NOT A BORDER DISPUTE AND CANNOT BE NEGOTIATED OR COMPROMISED. IT SAYS IT WANTS NO SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH VIETNAM LIKE THE ONE BETWEEN LAOS AND VIETNAM.

FINALLY IN THE UNITED STATES THIS WEEK, THE WIDOW OF THE LATE SENATOR AND FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY AGREED TO ACCEPT AN APPOINTMENT AS THE NEW SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA. MURIEL HUMPHREY WILL FILL THE CONGRESSIONAL SEAT LEFT VACANT BY THE DEATH OF HER HUSBAND EARLIER THIS MONTH. MISSUS HUMPHREY INDICATED SHE WILL FULLY SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS FAVORED BY HER HUSBAND:

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- MURIEL HUMPHREY

"AS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE, I BELIEVE THAT I CAN HELP COMPLETE SOME OF THE VERY IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS THAT HUBERT HOPED TO FINISH. IN THESE COMING MONTHS, I WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSURE THAT THE PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA RECEIVE THE FULL REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS THAT THEY DESERVE."

NARR:

VICE-PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE TERMED THE APPOINTMENT "A TRIBUTE MOST FITTING TO THE MEMORY OF HUBERT HUMPHREY". AND HE PREDICTED THAT MURIEL HUMPHREY WILL MAKE AN OUTSTANDING SENATOR IN HER OWN RIGHT. THE NEW MINNESOTA SENATOR WILL BECOME THE ONLY WOMEN CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS _____. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT _____ WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

-0-

JS/RTD/PBM/PY